

Amendments to the Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-45. (Cancelled).

46. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

inserting a cable member into a recess in a bone;

inserting a retention device into the recess, the retention device containing a shape memory polymer~~material~~; and

activating the shape memory polymer~~material~~.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, further comprising:

fixing the cable member to the recess.

48. (Original) The method of claim 46, further comprising:

creating the recess in the bone.

49. (Original) The method of claim 46, further comprising:

dilating the recess in the bone.

50. (Original) The method of claim 46, further comprising:

compacting bone tissue surrounding the recess in the bone.

51. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the cable member is selected from an animal tissue, a synthetic fiber, a natural fiber, a polymer, a metallic wire, a bundle, and a composite.

52. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein the animal tissue is human soft tissue.

53. (Original) The method of claim 46, further comprising:

initiating a polymerization of a monomer solution.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein activating comprises performing an operation on the shape memory polymer~~material~~, selected from heating, exposing to radio frequency electromagnetic radiation, exposing to infrared electromagnetic

radiation, exposing to ultraviolet electromagnetic radiation, and subjecting to a voltage differential.

55. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the inserting the cable member operation precedes the inserting the retention device operation.

56. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the inserting the cable member operation is performed simultaneously with the inserting the retention device operation.

57. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein after the activating operation is performed, the retention devices contacts the recess in the bone and contacts the cable member.

58. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein after the activating operation is performed, the cable member is held by the retention device and the cable member does not substantially contact the recess in the bone.

59-138. (Cancelled).

139. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the activating is heating, and wherein the heating comprises a transfer of heat from the bone to the shape memory polymer~~material~~.

140. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the activating is heating, and wherein the heating comprises flooding the retention device with a liquid bath.

141. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the activating is heating, and wherein the heating comprises a transfer of heat from the bone to the shape memory polymer~~material~~, and flooding the retention device with a liquid bath.